AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 50. WASHINGTON D. C., SATURDAY MARCH 9, 1918. WHOLE NO. 362.

COLD LAW TRIUMPHS; MOONEY LOSES PLEA

San Francisco, March 9.—The workings of cold law is illustrated by the California state supreme court, which has refused a new trial to Thomas J. Mooney, under sentence of death for complicity in the bomb explosion during a preparedness parade, July 22, 1916.

After Mooney was convicted it was discovered that the prosecution's principal witness, Oxman, had committed perjury. Oxman was so thoroughly discredited that the prosecution did not dare to call Mr. Oxman or Mrs. Mooney and Israel Weinberg, both of whom were acquitted.

No reference to the Oxman perjury is contained in the record of the Mooney trial, which the supreme court acted on, though the judge who presided at the Mooney trial notified Attorney General Webb that if he knew of Oxman's perjury before the case left his hands he would grant the defendant a new trial.

In dismissing Mooney's appeal, the state supreme court contended that the record as it looked for errors in that document. The court, in a unanimous decision, said: "The trial was conducted according to law and that no errors were made by the presiding judge."

By the stern application of the supreme court's theory, if Oxman, for instance, confessed to Mooney's conviction, that he threw the bomb, and Mooney's attorneys produced the statement of Oxman's to the court in their plea for a new trial that Mooney might be discharged, the court would hold that it could only consider the record of the trial, and if this was regular Mooney must hang, even if another confessed, as the court can not go outside the record.

As the case now stands, it is believed Mooney's only recourse is to appeal to the governor, who has power to release the accused or commute his sentence.

WANT TROOPS WITHDRAWN.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 8.—Governor Hunt has asked General Morgan, United States army, to withdraw troops now stationed at Miami and Bay mining districts as soon as convenient.

In a letter to the state federation of labor, Governor Hunt said:

"This action on my part results from inadequate facilities for the operative to the necessity of having federal soldiers detailed for patrol duty in the two districts mentioned, and at a time when there is no domestic disturbances and during a period when the United States government is in need of all available men for military service in Europe."

In 1916 Governor Hunt refused to permit strikebreakers to enter this state, which action resulted in 5,000 copper miners employed in the Clifton-Metcalf-Morenci district, securing a settlement of the issues involved by victimization. Governor Hunt was opposed by the copper companies at the next election, but the state supreme court has just seated him, after a long court contest, in which a claim of illegal practices was upheld.

Now the copper companies have failed to accept the recommendations of the president's mediation commission in the Bisbee deportation case, and are discriminating against organized workers.

Miners are being shipped into this state from Utah and elsewhere, despite the fact that large numbers of Arizona union miners are idle.

LIBERTY BONDS ARE SOUND.

San Francisco, March 9.—Because liberty bonds have been sold on stock exchanges for less than 100 cents on the dollar, Editor Barry of the Star says:

"These bonds were not intended for speculation. They are the very best security in the world—for the credit of the United States is behind that of all the nations. They will never pay less than the interest named on their face. They will be paid to the last cent at maturity.

"The government is not responsible for the vagaries of the stock market, but it is answerable for the payment of both interest and principal of the liberty bonds, and every foot of land, every building, every railroad, every share of taxable property, is liable for these government obligations. Let this be your explanation to the man who may not understand the exact situation.

"Then, when the next issue of liberty bonds is offered, do not hesitate because other investments offer stock promises bigger profits, but invest every dollar you can spare in the government bonds. Duties and encourage your friends and relatives to do the same."

MAIL BY AIR PLANES.

Washington, March 9.—The post office department will inaugurate its aerial postal service between this city, Philadelphia and New York next Monday, March 18, when it will be conducted for one year as part of the air plans now being framed by officers of the war department. Not to exceed 200 pounds of first-class mail, sacked and locked as now done, with 25 cubic feet, will be carried each trip. It is expected that the trip between Washington and New York, a distance of 225 miles, will be made inside of three hours, including a stop at Philadelphia.

COAL EARNINGS LARGE.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 9.—If there is a coal shortage next winter owners of Pittsburg district coal stock can hike south. The annual report shows that clear profits last year, after interest and all operating charges were met, are $14,076,652, a gain of $3,932,249 over 1916. This was far the best profit the coal companies ever had, the balance for dividends being more than $9,250,000. Coal sales amounted to $50,025,017, increase of $20,649,219 over the preceding year.

ACCIDENTS INCREASE.

Madison, Wis., March 9.—The report of the state industrial commission says that the number of accidents in Wisconsin increased from 21,000 in the industrial year 1915-16 to 36,013 in 1915-16, 1916-17. This increase in accidents was much more rapid than the increase in the number of employes, which is about 20 per cent.

"AL" WORKERS GAIN.

Washington, D. C., March 9.—Sheet workers' union No. 159 has asked wage increase of 45 cents a day. This action has aroused employers which does not expire June 1 next, but the employees in the shops that organized later in the cost of living made a raise necessary.

DIRECT LEGISLATION MAKES STEADY GAINS

Philadelphia, March 9.—Writing in a legal publication on "The Tools of Democracy," Edwin S. Potter, associate editor of Equity, says 22 states have incorporated one or more features of the initiative, referendum and recall in their fundamental law for state-wide use. There are 18 states which have adopted the state-wide initiative and referendum, in their order of adoption as follows: South Dakota, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Oklahoma, Maine, Missouri, Michigan, Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona, California, Ohio, Nebraska, Washington, North Dakota, Mississippi and Utah.

Six Massachusetts constitutional conventions has practically agreed to submit a state-wide initiative and referendum plan to the people.

New Mexico and Maryland have adopted the state-wide referendum, but not the initiative or recall.

Nine states have adopted constitutional amendments for the state-wide recall and are in the order of adoption as follows: Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, California, Nevada, Washington, Michigan, Kansas and Louisiana.

One or more of the three features of direct legislation, as applied to municipalities, has been authorized or required by constitutional amendments or otherwise in 44 states.

WOMEN DO HEAVY R. R. WORK

Washington, March 9.—At a meeting of the general council of Railroads McAdoo's wage commission, Miss Pauline Goldmark, sister-in-law of United States Court of Appeals Justice Brandeis, gave figures to show that women are being employed in increasing numbers to do heavy railroad work.

"One railroad employs 400 on one division and another has a total of 1537 women workers," she said.

Miss Goldmark said the women were lifting weights of as much as 90 pounds as drill press operators.

She told of investigations made at a factory in Zanesville, O., where many women are employed.

"The majority are women at this plant," she said, "are engaged at hard labor, such as loading and unloading scrap iron, wheeling iron castings in wheelbarrows, etc. The women loading scrap iron are lifting 70 pounds and in one yards, with no protection from the intense rays of the sun or from bad weather. They wear overalls and large-brim hats. They hand the iron up from the ground to others on the cars. The hours of labor are nine a day and 54 a week, with overtime pay. The rate is 22½ cents an hour and $1.50 is deducted each month for relief purposes. Men are said to receive an hour for the same kind of work."

HOW TO STOP NIGHT WORK.

Chicago, March 9.—In discussing methods of abolishing the night work of women, Max Hochdorf, Theodore Hohmann, of the Bakers' Journal, declares that the workers must—above all things—organize.

"Organization alone offers the only reliable support to their endeavors to solve all questions that concern the interests of the bakery workers," he says.

"A law by means of which night work would be abolished would, in our opinion, be of little avail, for that emanating point in the realization of the long-desired goal for the permanent establishment of day work. Our long experience has taught us go no uncertain measures, and that by legislation, of whatever nature it may have been, freed the workers from the necessity of their trade union organization. It may serve as an aiding factor, but it must always fall as a substitute for the work of organization of the workers in their struggle for an existence."

UNIONISTS EDUCATE.

Denver, March 9.—The Colorado school of mines has placed five scholarships at the disposal of the Colorado Labor Educational association, which was formed last year by the Colorado state federation of labor. Through the educational association organized labor in this state hopes to educate its young people to supply the demand for trained men to fill the responsible positions in the mining industry, and to encourage the organization of the workers in their struggle for a better life.

ARBITRATE STRIKE.

East St. Louis, Ill., March 9.—Organized labor has agreed to submit its differences with the employers to arbitration in the strike of 1,000 teamsters, who quit on 20 per cent wage increase and 9 o'clock closing on Saturday nights.

RAILROAD SHOP MEN HAVE LOST NO RIGHT

St. Louis, Mo., March 8.—In a circular issued by the Machinists and John Scott, president and secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, denial is made of the claim that officers of this department have accepted the employers' brand of "open" shop in an agreement with Director General of Railroads McAdoo.

The unionists say:

"The agreement speaks for itself, and if our members are unable to keep a union shop where they now have one, and with the protection presented by the government in guaranteeing protection against the discrimination practiced by the employers, they should be unable to keep those who desired to join the organization of their trade, the fault must be charged to your officers and not to us.

"We feel it incumbent upon us to call your attention to the danger we are giving heed to the garbled reports appearing in the press and trust that, pending receipt of official information, you will withhold your judgment."

It is stated that many officials of the railroads are filing strong protests with the director general of railroads against the decision of the board taken in official order No. 8, in which it is clearly defined that employes have a right to join organizations, without fear of their membership or nonmembership, in labor organizations. To offset this campaign of men who oppose organization, except for capitalists, railroad shop men in various sections of the country are assuring Director General of Railroads McAdoo that they are behind him and that he can depend on them to keep the equipment in first class shape.

BOTTLERS RAISE WAGES.

Baltimore, March 9.—Organized beer bottlers employed in this city have secured wage increases of $3 a week, less than during January, 1918.

VOCATIONAL AID TO DISABLED SOLDIERS

Washington, March 9.—The federal board for vocational education has prepared a plan to increase, by educational education, the earning power of injured soldiers and thereby reinstate them in civil employment.

It stated that 100,000 out of every 1,000 soldiers sent overseas will return to the United States during the first year of fighting, and that 30,000 of these will need some kind of vocational re-education.

The board's plan involves a central administrative agency at Washington, the co-ordination with that agency of every federal and state agency concerned, and with similar agencies semi-public and private agencies, the establishment of "curative workshops" for the treatment of war cripples, together with a complete system providing for subsistence and pay during the period of re-education.

Basing its opinion on foreign experience, the board says that "vocational rehabilitation can not be regarded as costing the community, accepting temporarily, anything whatever. The disability of the soldier is rather to be considered as reducing productive power. Unless this reducing power is subsequently established, and to the extent that they are not completely re-established, the community will have contributed, not be cumulative during a long period of years. Even a slight increase in vocational capacity, as a result of vocational training initiated during the period of convalescence, will result in a large increase in the total, and will be cumulative over a long period of years. The aggregate cumulative gain will certainly exceed any expenditures for vocational rehabilitation."

SCHWAB CORRECTS TALK.

Bethlehem, Pa., March 9.—Citizens may exhibit the $25,000 pacifist to life, for Charles M. Schwab has corrected press reports that he said labor organizations in this country constitute the world in the future. Some people imagine that Mr. Schwab's views are a factor in the world-wide awakening of labor, so the steel magnate presently sprang lines baited by many of the aforesaid people to be original.

In a speech in this city he said:

"I have had a lot of notoriety in the misquotation or remarks that I have not said or have said when I was not correct. I said, 'The world of the future is to be ruled by the people who work.' I meant by the people who work not only those who work with tools and with the machine, but those who work with heart, brain and energy. I regard myself as a worker and all my associates as workers. But I want to make is that the aristocracy of the future will not be that of people born to position and control by noble lineage and wealth. It will be controlled by the standards of the future that such should direct the enterprises of the world. Those who have done most for their country and for humanity, those justly should rule and no power on mine could be so ably expounded as by the people of Bethlehem themselves, who, comprising the community and their country."

FAVOR PRINTER'S INK.

Chicago, March 9.—The federal trade commission's investigation of the practices employed by certain theme business men are believers in the value of printer's ink. It is stated that definite details of methods of educational advertising were discussed at sheetings of the association's executive committee, at which a plan was adopted for one plan being to have large advertisements appear in all papers in every city of 25,000 population or over. Another plan included $1,000,000 for advertising in daily newspapers of 5,000 circulation or more to be supplied short articles.

Immediate answer to attacks on the packing industry appearing in print is the present policy of Swift & company, according to a letter issued to the trade by Charles P. Cary, this letter, bearing the signature of E. D. Cox, head of the publicity bureau of Swift, suggested an immediate reversal of the policy of the company of not replying to attacks, and declared that the attacks be answered immediately. The letter suggested that attacks appearing in the evening papers be answered in the papers of the following morning, and that attacks appearing in the Swift company be answered in the afternoon papers of the same day.

PACKERS DEPRESS OUTPUT.

Chicago, March 9.—Chicago meat packers have been operating at a loss, according to evidence submitted by Frank P. Walsh, attorney for the workers in the stock yards' arbitration hearing. Statistics were offered to show that the packers have not been operating at their maximum capacity for several months. In one day last week the packers bought 12,000 hogs in Chicago, although they have a killing capacity of 30,000 hogs a day, and the small amount purchased 25,000 hogs remained unsold that day. Mr. Walsh used these figures to strengthen his claim that the packers sought to buy live stock so as to depress prices.

RAISE PARCEL POST LIMIT.

Washington, March 9.—As a means of stimulating the movement of farm products to the consumer, the post office department has increased the allowable weights of parcel post packages, effective March 15.

Packages when mailed in the first or second zones may now weigh 70 pounds, third zone, 50 pounds, fourth zone, 40 pounds, fifth zone, 30 pounds, and sixth zone, 20 pounds. Heretofore the limit was 50 pounds in the first and second zones, 20 pounds in the third, fourth and fifth zones, and 15 pounds in the sixth zone. Packages weighing more than 20 pounds will be accepted only at those offices designated by the postmaster general.

MUST PAY COMPENSATION.

Denver, March 8.—Judge Perry of the district court has ruled that benefits under the state compensation law must be paid if the injured employe can not be evaded by court action by the employers. The decision is against the claim that the compensation law limits awards of the state industrial commission by continued litigation.

PROFITS ARE DOUBLED.

New York, March 9.—The Loose-Wiles Biscuit company's profit of $2,062,981 last year, was practically double that of the preceding year. The value of certain stocks in this company has increased from $27.38 a share to $52.51.

25 MINERS KILLED.

Charleston, W. Va., March 9.—The West Virginia mine inspectors report that during January 25 miners were killed in this state. This is six less than during January, 1917.

HEALTH LAWS URGED; UNFIT FILL SCHOOLS

Atlantic City, N. J., March 9.—At least 1 per cent (220,000) of the 22,000,000 children who are now in the United States are mentally defective. Seventy-five per cent (15,500,000) have physical defects which are potentially or actually detrimental to health. Most of these defects are remedial.

These almost unbelievable figures were presented to the educational council of education by Dr. Thomas D. Wood, of Columbia university, in support of the campaign for a national program of health education.

"War throws a spotlight on convincing, clear-cut national defects," said Dr. Wood. "We are beginning to find out fully what facts is that even more essential and fundamental to the integrity and permanence of a nation than scientific progress, political achievement, industrial development and economic accomplishment is: biologic soundness and fitness, the health of the nation.

"This national asset—health—while most essential is at the present time the most endangered of all our natural resources. It has been known for years that 75 per cent or more of the total school children of this country are handicapped by physical defects.

Only from one per cent of all the eligible draftees were altogether rejected, and from some state 50 and more mounted to 70 and 80 per cent. And how many men were taken with defects not recognized as serious by the government?

"Our nation is suffering, not only in relation to the war, but in the general program of the nation's advancement, annual economic loss amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars and human loss of value unmeasurable because of the menace."

PEACE PACT RENEWED.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 9.—Organized labor, represented by the state federation of labor, and the building trades council, has renewed its peace pact with the Cedar Rapids Employers' association.

All parties to the agreement are recognized in the conduct of negotiations. Arbitration provisions are provided for on all questions except union shop and discharges. Should either of the latter case the ruling of the respective trades department of the A. F. of L. will be accepted as the law, rulings conflict or do not cover the case, work shall be divided evenly between the contending employes until the trades department makes a decision.

The agreement is binding on locals affiliated with the two central bodies and on all employers who are in the Linds Employers' association. Refusal by any local or individual business agents to accept or live up to this agreement will result in expulsion for six months unless reinstated by the district. At the present time the official indorsement of both parties to the agreement.

Editor Stewart, of the Cedar Rapids Tribune, declares that not one in a hundred of the strikes in Iowa have occurred as a result of the agreement, which has obliterated all those forms of grievances radicalism thrives on often disrupted trade unionism.

FIRE FIGHTERS MEET.

Washington, March 9.—The international association of fire fighters held its first convention here last week, and elected Thomas Flaherty, of Schenectady, N. Y., president, and W. A. Smith, of this city, secretary-treasurer. Eleven vice presidents were chosen and Pueblo, Col., selected as the 1919 convention city.

The fire fighters were given a charter by the American Federation of Labor in the Buffalo convention last year. The new organization includes municipal firemen.

Nearly 1000 local unions were represented, the various city firemen's unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. at the time of the convention devoted much time to the question of shorter hours and indorsed the two-platoon system.

R. R. SHOP MEN GAIN.

Toronto, Ontario, March 9.—Federated shop men have secured their first agreement with the Grand Trunk railroad. They were promised nearly $300 a year for each employe. Workers are granted time and one-half rights and an apprentice system is agreed to, which provides that these beneficiaries must be between 16 and 21 years, after which they will receive the minimum wage for journeymen. Helpers must not be employed to the detriment of mechanics or apprentices, and improvers will not be employed. The agreement is for one year, and continued as soon as men employed as improvers become proficient. Grievance and shop committees will be recognized.

CAN'T REACH VOTE BUYER.

Washington, March 9.—The United States senate has refused that the federal government "has no power to prosecute persons who have been guilty of bribery in connection with federal offices." It is a state or local power, and not federal, it was held. This action became that 39 persons convicted of fraud in the first Minneapolis election can not be made have to stand trial as the court upholds demurrers to the indictments.

TOOLS SUPPLIED WORKERS.

Tacoma, Wash., March 9.—The Building Laborers' union has secured from the contractors 50 cents rates from $4 to $5 a day, and in some instances $5.50. A feature of the agreement is that from this time forward the contractor must furnish tools for these workers, who formerly brought their own tools to each job.

LABOR LAWS STAND.

Charleston, S. C., March 9.—The state senate has killed the measure without empowering the state executive to suspend the labor laws of this state. The governor asked for this power and the plan was favored in industrial business men, but the senate refused to act on the suggestion after the trade union movement presented its side.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN

Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 8.—Street Car Men's union No. 99 and the Winnipeg Street Railway company have reached an understanding on the question of wages, which will be submitted to the men for their first and second year men and 2 cents an hour for others, with a maximum rate of 42 cents an hour.

POORLY FED CHILDREN REFLECTED IN DRAFT

Washington, March 9.—The government has officially indorsed organized labor's plea for "well-fed, well-cared-for children, that coming generations may be strong and vigorous.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo announces that as a result of investigations by the federal public health service of the causes for rejections for physical defects under the draft law, it has been established conclusively that eight-hour day in actual operation and proved profitable to employers and employed.

"I advocate the eight-hour day on the ground of economy, health and morals," he said. "Men should be required to work overtime only in times of the greatest emergency or for the protection of life and property. That is why we demand time and a half for overtime and double pay for holidays. We think this penalty of added cost will discourage employers from asking men to work overtime except when it is really necessary."

The executive committee of organized labor toward the war, he said:

"Labor will make every sacrifice for the successful prosecution of the war, but it will not make any sacrifice for private profiteering during the war."

WELFARE WORK A SCREEN.

Chicago, March 9.—"Whenever you find street car men denied the right to organize, there you will find the company dominating employes in benevolent association. Club rooms and all kinds of welfare schemes are substituted by autocratic traction companies for a living wage and decent working day," said Leader, official paper of Chicago's organized street car men.

"Some employes are handed to the employes as they report for duty. Considerable space is devoted to advertising the fact that all of the loans deals with the promotion of company-controlled institutions, organized for company benefit and to suppress unionism among the employes. All these institutions are financed by the employes, the dues being deducted from the pay. In some instances the company contributes nothing to the expense, but this and more is taken from the employes in low rates fare. No compensation is provided for the families. Medical attendance is provided, sick and death benefits are paid. The employes pay for all of this, but have no say in the administration of affairs. The company controls.

"The 'welfare' institutions of traction companies, unlike their publications are issued to perpetuate, enable them to operate the companies on a low wage basis, keep their employes in a state of subjection, care for their loyal employes in case of accident or sickness, and provide for sick and death benefits from the fund that comes from the employes.

"The company publication exploits all the ga the benefactions of all the churches, ministers, and kindly interested in the employes' welfare.

"The only way to secure these rights is to join the trade union organization and its necessary concomitant, a live trade union press."

GAINS BY BOOKBINDERS.

Franklin, Pa., March 9.—Bookbinders' union No. 146 has raised wages $3 a week for men, women and apprentices.

Indianapolis, March 9.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report that for the month of February 1,167 men and 172 women were admitted.

Frankfort, Ky., March 9.—The State Journal company and its organized bookbinders have settled differences and these employes have returned to work.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 9.—Five large printing concerns in this city have granted a year agreement with the Bookbinders' union. Journeymen rates are increased $3 a week each year and women's wages are increased $1.50 the first year and $1 the second year.

LET GIRLS MAKE HOMES.

Atlantic City, N. J., March 9.—The feminine war helper, who dons a pompadour uniform and a jimmy pipe, was frowned upon by the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' association in annual convention here. A report on this subject said:

"The preparing of women to be automobile drivers, truck chauffeurs and for other occupations which, in fact, is not half so important as preparing for wholesome, economic home making and intelligent, helpful child training." The committee declared its position on this question is not a hidden one, as

"Where can the second line of defense better be established than in wisely-directed homes?"

RUNS ANTI-LABOR LOBBY.

Chicago, March 9.—In its investigation of methods employed by packers in this city, congress of the federal trade commission has made public a number of letters showing that they have maintained an anti-labor lobby. The letters range from advice to increase the proportion of negro labor and a caution to drop union men at Denver without allowing them to organize, to a plan to create opposition against the eight-hour law in Illinois, and a scheme to use the courts to regulate and shorten hours of women.

WANT PROFITS RETURNED.

Washington, March 9.—The government is asking clothing manufacturers to refund 5 cents for every soldier's service coat made during the preceding quarter. The manufacturers reply that the change in style has cost them more than the alleged saving because they were compelled to disorganize their systems to make the new coat. Thousands of dollars are involved.

TO ADJUST DISPUTES.

Butte, Mont., March 9.—The Anaconda Copper Mining company has created a labor department, where employes can go to secure the adjustment of their grievances. The company has placed Thomas J. Chope in charge. The appointee was formerly vice president and treasurer of the Montana state federation of labor.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Hoboken, N. J., March 9.—Typographical union No. 222 has secured a two-year agreement, with wage increases for members employed in commercial shops. Day rates are $25 a week for hand and $26 for machine men. Night rates are $225 and $30 respectively.

LIVING COSTS SOAR; HIGH WAGE JUSTIFIED

Washington, March 9.—If a worker, last year, received wages of $20 a week, or from $3 to $3.72 a day, for instance, the increased cost of food that year would take away his increase, with nothing to meet higher prices for rent, shoes, clothing, etc.

If the same worker raised wages 22 per cent, or from $3 to $4.56 a day between 1917 and 1917, the increased cost of food during that period would consume this gain, with nothing to meet higher prices for rent, shoes, clothing, etc.

The above suppositions are based on food prices issued by the federal bureau of labor statistics, and published in its Monthly Review, March issue:

"In the year from December 15, 1916, to December 15, 1917, prices of food as a whole advanced 24 per cent. Potatoes and onions are the only articles that show a decline. Potatoes decreased in price 19 per cent and onions 9 per cent. The article showing the greatest increase is corn meal, which was 80 per cent higher December 15, 1917, than in December, 1916. In the year, bacon increased 63 per cent; beef, 31 per cent; beans, 22 per cent; milk and ham, 21 per cent; each; lard, 28 per cent; butter, 27 per cent; flour, 26 per cent; flour, 23 per cent; eggs and bread, 20 per cent, each.

"The whole was 62 per cent higher on December 15, 1917, than on December 15, 1913, and 24 per cent higher than on either December 15, 1916, or December 15, 1915. During this four-year period, rent increased only 127 per cent; land, 111 per cent; flour, 106 per cent; bacon, 104 per cent; beans, 92 per cent; milk and ham, 91 per cent; each; lard, 78 per cent; butter, 77 per cent; flour, 75 per cent; and eggs, 73 per cent. No article declined in price."

HOUSING LAW SIGNED.

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson has signed the bill providing $50,000,000 for the housing of ship yard employes and the fleet corporation's general fleet corporation is already at work solving this problem. The law empowers the fleet corporation to erect houses, hotels and other buildings in the territory adjacent to ship building plants, and build streets wherever necessary.

One of the principal complaints of ship yard workers has been poor living quarters. This has lowered the morale and has affected their working efficiency. Where workers have had decent living quarters in many instances they have paid extortionate rentals, which has nullified high wages.

Friends of housing legislation declare that this will be one of the most effective means of speeding up the building program.

A similar bill, carrying an appropriation of $60,000,000, is now applied, the price at which the purchaser may resell them being fixed under what conditions, is an economic question. To decide it wisely it is necessary to consider a number of facts, industrial and commercial, rather than established legal principles. Justice Brandeis has already expressed clearness of view which apparently not found entertained by a majority of my brethren.

The decision is of vital importance affecting more than $1,000 a year in the graphophone records, bound by similar contracts, but also thousands of records of other makes and the entire retail prices of which are fixed by manufacturers.

SUFFS' PICKETING LAWFUL.

Washington, March 9.—Picketing the white house fence by suffragettes is not of itself unlawful, rules the court of appeals of the district of Columbia in the case of suffragettes convicted last August in police court of unlawful picketing. The appeal court held that the action filed against the women was defective in failing to set forth the acts alleged to be committed by the defendants.

"So far as information enlightens us," says the court, "the defendants may have assembled for a perfectly peaceful purpose and may be guilty to degree obstructed the sidewalk, are not guilty of any offense."

The court also decided wide attention last year by standing outside the white house with banners, which bore the following inscriptions sentiments expressed by President Wilson. Without warning they were given work house sentences and they have now sued District of Columbia officials for false imprisonment.

COMPENSATION RULING.

Louisville, Ky., March 9.—The state court of appeals in a compensation board has ruled that when an employe is injured during the lunch hour he is entitled to benefits if he is in the course of employment." A woman worker overturned a pot of tea in a kettle of boiling water and the employer held that the injury was not associated with her employment.

The board held that "quenching thirst or relieving hunger, performance of which is necessary for health and comfort, are accidents to the employment, and if the worker is injured during their performance the accident arises out of and in the course of the employment."

PACKERS' PROFITS BIG.

Chicago, March 9.—Wilson & company, meat packers, made a clear profit of $6,504,422 last year. This does not include payments for bonds, interest and taxes. In 1916 clear profits were $4,812,858.

Swift & company, one of the "big five" packers who are resisting living wage demands of their employes, is controlled by Federal Judge Alschuler, acting as an arbitrator.

TO CONTROL FERTILIZER.

Washington, March 8.—Government control of the fertilizer industry has been recommended by the federal trade commission. Manufacturers and distributors will obtain licenses from the secretary of agriculture, who will fix prices. The president acts under authority of the food control law.

UNITED CIGAR EARNINGS.

New York, March 9.—The United Cigar Stores company reports a clear profit last year of $4,432,393, which is more than double the preceding year's figures. At this corporation is a holding company for a number of separate subsidiaries not included.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, March 9.—Overalls workers affiliated with the Garment Workers, have secured increases ranging between $2 and $3 a week.

"CIVIL RIGHTS" BILL PASSED BY CONGRES

Washington, March 9.—Congress has passed bill for soldiers and sailors' civil rights bill.

This legislation, together with the soldiers and sailors' insurance act, which provides for insurance up $10,000 at nominal cost, marks a new departure in military legislation among the nations, in that it puts bill, soldiers and sailors' dependents are protected against eviction because of non-payment of rent, loss of life insurance through non-payment of assessments or dues, or loss of homestead through abandonment or non-payment of fees.

These protections are given on the condition that a man's normal ability to meet his obligations has been "materially affected" by his military service.

The most important features of this legislation follow:

A law suit can not be decided against a man who is unable to appear by reason of military service, courts must appoint attorneys for such defendants. A law suit begun against a man who has entered military service, may be postponed until the man in service is able to give his personal attention. A soldier's wife or family can not be evicted from any dwelling where the rent does not exceed $50 a month. The court may inquire into all such cases and make such decisions as are just. Any attempt to evict shall be punishable by a $1000 fine.

On license being paid for on the installment plan, contracts shall not be foreclosed for non-payment before the court so decides after an investigation. The court may then order all payments made refunded or it may stay proceedings.

Insurance is defined to include benefits from any form of life insurance, as well as commercial life insurance. Non-payments due to military service shall not invalidate the policy up to one year after the close of the war.

Installment contracts executed in the sale of a fighter's property. This includes assessments and levies made by any federal, state or local government.

FIXING UNLAWFUL.

Washington, March 3.—The United States supreme court has ruled that the Sherman anti-trust law is a thing at which the retailer must sell his product. The decision was made in the case of the Boston store, Chicago, against the American Graphophone company and the Columbia Graphophone company. In rendering the decision Chief Justice White said that a price-fixing system can not be justified either under general law or the patent law.

"It is true," the opinion, Justice Brandeis said: "Whether a producer of goods should be permitted by fix the contract, in which he supplied, the price at which the purchaser may resell them, is a question of general law, not affected by the patent law. The decision is of vital importance affecting more than $1,000 a year in the graphophone records, bound by similar contracts, but also thousands of records of other makes and the entire retail prices of which are fixed by manufacturers.

UNIONS SEND TOBACCO.

Tacoma, Wash., March 9.—"Send the boys in the trenches plug of good union tobacco," is the word of Tacoma unionists these days. Every organization in the city is busily responding to the call for tobacco for the soldiers. Donations are being sent to the officers of the Tobacco Workers' International union, E. Lewis Evans, secretary, Iroquois Life building, Louisville, Ky.

NO SCARCITY IN ILLINOIS.

Springfield, Ill., March 9.—Barney Cohen, director of the Illinois department of labor, has issued a statement that there is not now a shortage of labor in Illinois, as shown by reports received at the office of that department.

"Should there be a shortage," he says, "there is no doubt that labor will cheerfully help to meet the shortage in order that the work continuing loyalty and enthusiasm."

LAW-AND-ORDERITES SLOWLY FADE AWAY

San Francisco, March 9.—The law-and-order committee of the chamber of commerce is peacefully passing into the great beyond and the lurid anti-union promises of this million-dollar band remain unfilled.

The views of thinking citizens on this committee are shown in a statement issued last year by Mayor Rolph to its chairman, Frederick J. Koster, in which the mayor said: "I pay nor the law-and-order committee of the chamber of commerce because I am opposed to the right of labor to live and order the right to lecture me or the police department.

"Doubtless, you are disappointed," continued the mayor, "because I have not, as you suggested, turned machine guns on crowds in our streets and shot down a few persons as a means of ending the customary number of innocent bystanders; but with all respects to your opinion, I think the police do well to enforce law and order as firmly as they have done without any such wanton slaughter, of the people.

"Violent and illegal repression has never maintained law and order so effectually as firmness and moderation have shown in the present crisis. I am sure that so many persons of your type in this country are so incurably stupid and ignorant about how free and industry, the very matters in which you are most interested, that you prefer to botch you deem yourselves most enlightened. The world is changing and you don't know it and you are the last one to know it. I am more than the exar what was happening to him and Russia, until it was all over. You still believe in Napoleon's whiff of grape shot. You still think that industrial discontent can be quelled by the policeman's club. Happily the world is not going to take you or your law-and-order committee as seriously as you take yourselves.